

LESSON 5
Lieutenant Longfellow's Wartime Experience
1863

Main Objective

This lesson investigates Charley's numerous and varied Civil War experiences. Using primary sources, students discover what life was like for Lieutenant Longfellow, and consider the extent to which the relationship between father and son influences Charley's wartime experience.

Guiding Questions

What does Charley learn from his experiences as a Union soldier?

To what extent does the relationship between Henry and Charley Longfellow influence Charley's wartime experience?

Intended Learning Outcomes (Understandings)

By the close of the lesson, students will be able to:

- List five towns Charley visited during his time in the army;
- Identify his major responsibilities as a soldier;
- Describe Charley's experience as a Union soldier.

Intended Learning Outcomes (Skills)

By the close of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Draw inferences from primary sources to answer basic historical questions;
- Determine Charley's wartime route on a map;
- Develop a hypothesis about the extent to which the relationship between Henry & Charley Longfellow influences Charley's wartime experience.

Curriculum Connections

History/Social Science

Learning Standards

- USI.40 Provide examples of the various effects of the Civil War.
 - A. Physical and economic destruction

Concepts and Skills

8. Interpret the past within its own historical context rather than in terms of present-day norms and values.
10. Distinguish historical fact from opinion.

English Language Arts

Reading and Literature Strand

- 8: Understanding a Text. Students will identify the basic facts and main ideas of a text and use them as the basis for interpretation.

- 9: Making Connections. Students will deepen their understanding of a literary or non-literary text by relating it to its contemporary context or historical background.

Prior Knowledge

- The nature of the relationship between Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Charley Longfellow
- The circumstances of Charley's entry into the Union army
- The reasons for the Civil War
- Which states are Union; which states are Confederate

Time

Two fifty-minute class periods or one 110-minute block

Teacher Preparation

1. Review lesson plan
2. Ensure students are familiar with content identified under "Prior Knowledge"
3. Review and introduce vocabulary to students
4. Divide the class into five small groups
5. Copy Primary Source Packets and Research Charts for each group
6. Copy Cast of Characters and Civil War Glossary for each group
7. Post guiding questions for the lesson: "What does Charley learn from his experiences as a Union soldier? To what extent does the relationship between Henry and Charley Longfellow influence Charley's wartime experience?"

Challenging Vocabulary

The following words may be challenging for students. You may wish to introduce these words discuss their definitions prior to the lesson.

Responsibilities and Duties: brogan, campaign, detachment, ford, guerrilla, oblige, peg in, picket, private, reconnaissance, regiment, settler, valise

Living Conditions: adjutant, amiable, battalion, campaign, contraband, contrary, expedition, gaunt, guerilla, hard tack, haversack, muggings, oblige, pay master, picket, regiment, sinister, ford(v.) - as in "unfordable" (*sic*)

From Private to Officer: artillery, ascertain, aspirants, clandestinely, cavalry, coercive, commission, consent, endeavor, enlist, detain, infantry, muster in, private, recruit, shrewd, trifle, utterly

Bill of Health: camp-fever, cinders, fatigue, impediment, insidious, paralysis, regiment, Sanitary Commission

Battles and Skirmishes: artillery, battery, brigade, cannonade, carbineer, cavalry, chap, earnest, exceedingly, flank, gaiety, lame, maneuver, musketry, regiment, skirmisher, squadron, volleys

Materials

For teachers

- Lesson plan
- Classroom map of United States (eastern seaboard) – not included

- The New War Map of Maryland, Part of Virginia & Pennsylvania (detail)
- Copies of Primary Source Packets for student groups
- Copies of research charts with guiding questions for student groups
- Copies of *Cast of Characters: Lesson 5*
- Copies of *Civil War Glossary: Lesson 5*
- Location markers (for mapping activity)

For students

- Responsibilities and Duties: Primary Source Packet #1 & Research Chart
- Living Conditions: Primary Source Packet #2 & Research Chart
- From Private to Officer: Primary Source Packet #3 & Research Chart
- Bill of Health: Primary Source Packet #4 & Research Chart
- Battles and Skirmishes: Primary Source Packet #5 & Research Chart
- *Cast of Characters: Lesson 5*
- *Civil War Glossary: Lesson 5*

Activities

In this activity, students work in six small groups to analyze Charley's wartime experiences. Using journal entries, letters, and photographs, each small group researches the following topics (two groups research topic #3):

1. Responsibilities and Duties
2. Living Conditions
3. From Private to Officer
4. Bill of Health
5. Battles and Skirmishes

After completing small group research, the class regroups to share findings, chart Charley's movement on the classroom map of the United States, discuss their theories with respect to what Charley has learned through his wartime experiences, and share their ideas about the extent to which Henry Longfellow influenced his son's wartime experiences.

I. Research

- A. Divide class into six small groups. Assign each group a topic. Provide each group with appropriate Research Chart and Primary Sources Packet. The final discussion will focus on the following questions:

- What did Charley like about being a soldier?
- What did Charley learn from this experience?
- How do you think Henry felt about Charley's wartime experience?
- How does Charley's relationship with his father affect his wartime experience?

1. Responsibilities and Duties

Use the following letters from Charley to Henry to find out Charley's major responsibilities and duties as a soldier. Identify the date and location of each letter. Use information in the letters to answer the following questions:

- What were Charley Longfellow's primary duties and responsibilities while a soldier in the Civil War?
- Do you think Charley likes what he's doing? Why or why not?
- Would you like to have a soldiering experience like the one Charley describes? Explain your response.

2. Living Conditions

Cavalry activity ranged from doing mundane things to fighting. Use the following documents and comment on a soldier's life. Make sure to include any information you find on friends and fellow soldiers, food and meals, weather, clothing, sleeping conditions and shelter, camp, and pay/compensation.

- What does Charley like and dislike about camp life?
- How does he deal with the discomforts?
- Based on Charley's letters, how would **you** characterize camp life?

3. From Private to Officer

Charley enlisted as a soldier in March 1863. It was uncommon for enlisted soldiers to move quickly into the upper ranks. Charley, however, was offered a commission within two weeks of enlistment which promoted him from the entry level position of a private, to the elevated rank of Second Lieutenant. Use information from the following documents to answer these questions:

- What accounts for Charley's hasty commission?
- In your opinion, are the grounds for Charley's commission justifiable?

4. Bill of Health

Life as a soldier could be very difficult. Use the following materials to find out about Charley's health during wartime and the different ways in which his father responds. Use your findings to answer these questions:

- What happens to Charley in June, August, and December of 1863?
- In each case, what is Henry's response?
- If you were in Charley's shoes, would you want a parent to respond like Henry does? Why/why not?

5. Battles and Skirmishes

It was common for soldiers to participate in a number of battles and skirmishes during the Civil War. Charley was no exception. Use the following documents to find out what battles and skirmishes Charley and his regiment were engaged in. Use the chart to document your findings. Note the date and approximate location of the battle (refer to map); describe the battle or skirmish; and identify any injuries, losses, or challenges. Use your findings to answer these questions:

- How does Charley feel about his role as a soldier in battle?
- How do you think it would feel to be engaged in battles and skirmishes like those described by Charley Longfellow and George Osborn? Explain your response.

B. Give students time to complete research.

II. Share Findings and Map Route

A. Share Findings

1. Read the following to students:

HWL to James T. Fields

Camb. June 9 1863

My Dear Fields

...Perhaps I can go with you on your return to the mountains. Nay, I might even go from Portland to Gorham and so descend upon you from above; as I think I should do, if I were only sure that all would remain "quiet on the Rappahannock." But naturally enough I do not want just now to be beyond the reach of the telegraph...

H.W.L.

Pose these questions:

- What is significant about June 9?
- What does HWL tell Fields he does and doesn't want to do on June 9, 1863?
- What does this letter reveal about Henry Longfellow? About his ties to Craigie house (the Longfellow family home in Cambridge)?

2. Ask each small group to give an overview of what group members discovered and comment on the influence they believe Henry had on Charley's wartime experience. Use the following questions to guide the discussion:

- What did Charley like about being a soldier?
- What did Charley learn from this experience?
- How do you think Henry felt about Charley's wartime experience?
- How does Charley's relationship with his father affect his wartime experience?

B. Map the route of Charley and his regiment (optional).

1. Hand out location markers to each research group. Information on the marker is taken from the primary sources studied in the first part of the lesson.
2. Call out the following dates. As each date is called, have one person from the group post the dated marker on the classroom map of the United States and the enclosed detail. Be sure to mention that the location is where CAL and/or his regiment were.

- From Private to Officer: March 12, 1863
Charley was in Washington on March 12, 1863.
- Living Conditions: April 9, 1863
Charley and his regiment were at Potomic [sic] Creek, VA on April 9, 1863.
- Bill of Health: June 13, 1863
Charley and Henry were in Washington DC on June 13, 1863.
- Bill of Health: July 1, 1863
Charley and Henry were in Nahant, MA on July 1, 1863.
- Battles and Skirmishes: July 15, 1863

- *Charley's regiment was in Harpers Ferry, VA on July 15, 1863.*
- Bill of Health: August 17, 1863
Charley was in Washington on August 17, 1863.
- Responsibilities and Duties: August 22, 1863
Charley and his regiment were in Warrenton, VA on August 22, 1863.
- Responsibilities and Duties: September 20, 1863
Charley and his regiment were in Culpepper, VA on September 20, 1863.
- Battles and Skirmishes: October 17, 1863
Charley and his regiment were near Bull Run in VA on October 17, 1863.
- Bill of Health: December 9, 1863
Charley and Henry were in New York on December 9, 1863 on their way to Cambridge, MA.

Resources for Further Research and Discovery

Books

Crowninshield, Benjamin W. *A History of the First Regiment of Massachusetts Cavalry Volunteers*. USA: Stan Clark Military Books. July, 1996 (reprint).
<https://archive.org/details/historyoffirstre00crowuoft>

Murphy, Jim. *The Boys' War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War*. NY: Clarion Books, 1990.

Wertz, Jay. *The Civil War Experience: 1861-1865*. CA: Presidio Press, 2005.

Websites

Massachusetts Volunteer Cavalry 1st Regiment: <http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>

Gettysburg National Military Park:
<http://www.nps.gov/gett/>

The American Civil War: Forging a More Perfect Union (National Park Service):
<http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/index.htm>

Charley Longfellow:

Coming of Age in a Time of Turbulence

AN HISTORIC HOUSE EXPLORERS PROGRAM

Lesson 5: Lieutenant Longfellow's Wartime Experience

Cast of Characters

Principal Characters

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (b. 1807): [HWL] Henry Longfellow was a scholar and educator, translator, poet, compiler of anthologies, and husband to Frances Appleton Longfellow with whom he fathered six children. He was raised in Portland, Maine, and graduated from Bowdoin College in 1825. He was a professor of Modern Language at Bowdoin (1829-1835) and afterwards professor of French and Spanish literature at Harvard College. Longfellow was the first American poet to make substantial sums from his work, and at the turn of the 20th century, copies of his poems sold worldwide in excess of one million. During his lifetime, Longfellow was the most popular and widely read American poet in the world.

Frances Appleton Longfellow (b. 1817-1861): [FAL] Daughter of Nathan Appleton, wife of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and mother to six Longfellow children. Fanny was raised in the fashionable Beacon Hill section of Boston, though the family traveled to Europe with some degree of regularity. Fanny married Henry Longfellow in July 1843, at which point the two set up home in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Fanny was an avid reader and writer, and appreciated the fine arts, theater, and music.

Charles Appleton Longfellow (b. 1844): [CAL] The first born of the Longfellow children. In an 1848 journal entry, his mother describes Charley as one who “promises to be the man of action.”

Supporting Characters

Andrew, John A. (1818-1867): Elected Governor of Massachusetts in 1860, Andrew was an abolitionist and an advocate of black regiments. He established the 5th Massachusetts Cavalry Regiment and the 54th Massachusetts and 55th Massachusetts Infantry Regiments. He was re-elected for four successive terms.

Appleton, Harriot (1841-1923): Fanny Longfellow's half-sister and Charley Longfellow's aunt. In 1863, Hattie married Col. Lt. Greely Stevenson Curtis.

Appleton, Nathan Jr. (1843-1906): Charley's uncle (Fanny Appleton Longfellow's half-brother). Nathan Appleton joined the Union army in 1863 and served as 2nd Lieutenant for the Massachusetts 5th Battalion, Artillery L. Appleton was wounded in action, and brevetted to Captain before leaving service.

Bowditch, Captain Henry Pickering (1840-1911): Grandson of famed Salem mathematician and navigator Nathaniel Bowditch. Captain Bowditch was wounded in his right forearm while leading a charge at New Hope Church. Following the Civil War, he earned a medical degree at Harvard College and became a physiologist. His aunt, Mary Dixwell, was a close friend of the Longfellow family.

Chase, Salmon Portland: Chase was elected to the United States Senate as a Free Soil candidate from Ohio and served from March 4, 1849, to March 3, 1855. He was then elected Governor of Ohio in 1855 and reelected in 1857. In 1860, he was elected as a Republican to the United States Senate; he took his seat on

March 4, 1861, but resigned two days later to serve as Secretary of Treasury under President Lincoln. He held this position from March 1861-July 1864. Salmon went on to serve as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court from December 1864 until his death on May 7, 1873.

Crowninshield, Benjamin W. (1837-1892): Son of a Boston businessman and Captain of the First Massachusetts Cavalry. Brevetted to Colonel prior to leaving service.

Curtis, Lieut. Col. Greely Stevenson (1830-1897): Husband of Harriet Appleton, Curtis was instrumental in raising Massachusetts volunteers during the Civil War. In May of 1861, he joined the 2nd Mass. Volunteer Infantry. Curtis was permanently discharged in September 1864 and brevetted to colonel and brigadier general in 1867. A brevet rank was an honorary promotion given to an officer (or enlisted man) in recognition of gallant conduct or other meritorious service.

Dalton, Dr.: Friend of Mary Longfellow Greenleaf and doctor in the Army Medical Department during the Civil War.

Dana Jr, Richard Henry (1815-1882): Writer, lawyer, close friend and neighbor of Henry W. Longfellow, and father-in-law to Longfellow's daughter Edith. After spending two years (1831–33) at Harvard, he shipped as a common sailor around Cape Horn to California. The narrative of this voyage, published as *Two Years before the Mast* (1840), was written to secure justice for the sailor and has become an American classic of the days of sailing ships. Dana graduated from Harvard in 1837 and entered law practice. Active in politics, he helped found the Free-Soil party and represented escaped slaves who became fugitives with passage of the Compromise of 1850 (Fugitive Slave Act).

Fay, William (Willy): Close friend of Charley Longfellow.

Fields, James Thomas (1817-1881): An American publisher and author who, in 1839, became junior partner in the publishing and bookselling firm know for a time as Ticknor & Fields. He was a close friend, editor, and publishing advisor to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and also served as editor of the *Atlantic Monthly* from 1862-1870.

Freiligrath, Ferdinand (1810-1876): A radical German political poet of the 19th century and friend of Henry Longfellow.

Gleason, Captain Daniel (Harry) Lawrence: Served in the First Massachusetts Cavalry with Charley Longfellow, then served as Captain of the First Massachusetts Cavalry.

Green, George Washington: An Italian scholar who Henry Longfellow befriended in 1826 while traveling through Italy studying languages in preparation for his position as Chair of Modern Languages at Bowdoin College.

Greenleaf, Mary Longfellow (1816-1902): Henry Longfellow's younger sister. Mary married cotton trader James Greenleaf and lived down the street from Henry and Fanny Longfellow half of the year, and in New Orleans the other half. Mary's brother, Sam Longfellow, described James as a Copperhead.

Hillard, George Stillman (1808-1879): Close friend of Henry Longfellow; lawyer in practice with Charles Sumner.

Longfellow Sr., Alexander Wadsworth (1814-1901): Henry Longfellow's brother and civil engineer, Alexander was employed on extensive coastal surveys by the U.S. government and lived in Portland most of his life.

Longfellow, Alice M. (b. 1850): Henry and Fanny Longfellow's second daughter.

Longfellow, Annie A. (b. 1855): Henry and Fanny Longfellow's fourth daughter.

Longfellow, Edith (b. 1853): Henry and Fanny Longfellow's third daughter.

Longfellow, Ernest W. (b. 1845): Henry and Fanny Longfellow's second son. In 1848 Fanny Longfellow described Erny as the one who "promises to be the poet."

Longfellow, Francis "Fanny" (b. 1847): Henry and Fanny Longfellow's first daughter.

Longfellow, Reverend Samuel (1819-1892): Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's youngest brother and biographer, Samuel, was a Unitarian minister and author of many hymns still in use today. Sam believed in transcendentalism, temperance, and women's suffrage, and strongly opposed the institution of slavery. Sam lived with Henry and Fanny Longfellow while attending Harvard (1844-1846), and continued to live with the family on-and-off until his death in 1892.

Mackintosh, Mary Appleton (1813-1889): Fanny Appleton's older sister. Mary lived in England with her husband, Robert, and their four children. She and Fanny communicated regularly about parenting, children, and family affairs.

McCartney, William H.: Commander of the 1st Massachusetts Light Artillery, Battery (A).

Osborne, George: Surgeon who served with Charley Longfellow in the First Massachusetts Cavalry; died in action while Surgeon of the Fifth Massachusetts Cavalry.

Pierce, Anne Longfellow (1810 – 1901): Henry Longfellow's sister. In 1832, she married George Washington Pierce, a classmate and close friend of Henry. Following the death of her husband in 1835, she returned to her parent's home in Portland. Anne lived in the Portland house the remainder of her life. Henry, Fanny and their children made annual visits, usually in the summer, to visit Anne in Maine.

Rand, George: Close friend of Charley Longfellow.

Stanton, Edwin M. (1814-1869): Secretary of War under presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson (1862-1868).

Sumner, Charles (1811-1874): Henry Longfellow's closest friend, frequent houseguest, and faithful confidante. Sumner was a politician and statesman from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A noted lawyer and orator, Sumner devoted his enormous energies to the destruction of what he considered the "Slave Power" - the conspiracy of slave owners to seize control of the federal government and block the progress of liberty. He served in the U.S. Senate for 23 years, from 1851 until his death in 1874, during which time fought to repeal the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act, denounced the Kansas-Nebraska Act which paved the way for slavery to be extended into the new territories, and gave numerous speeches on the evils of slavery and the danger of growing sectionalism. On May 22, 1854, Sumner was attacked and beaten into unconsciousness in his Senate chamber by South Carolina congressman Preston Brooks for comments made about Brooks' uncle during a speech given two days earlier. Sumner, who suffered from severe head trauma and post

traumatic shock, did not attend the Senate for three years, though continued to serve as Senator from Massachusetts until his death on March 11, 1874.

Wadsworth, Emmeline Austin: Fanny Longfellow's best friend; moved to Geneseo, New York following her marriage to William Wadsworth.

Whittier, John Greenleaf (1807-1892): Poet, abolitionist, and friend of Henry W. Longfellow, Whittier was devoted to social causes and reform, and worked passionately for a series of abolitionist newspapers and magazines in the years leading up to the Civil War. Whittier founded the antislavery Liberty party in 1840 and ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1842.

Charley Longfellow:
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Civil War Glossary¹

Abolitionist: Someone who wishes to abolish or get rid of slavery.

Adjutant: A staff officer who helps a commanding officer with administrative affairs.

Army: The largest organizational group of soldiers, made up of one or more corps. There were 16 Union armies (named after rivers, such as the Army of the Potomac) and 23 Confederate armies (named after states or regions, such as the Army of Northern Virginia). 1 company = 50 to 100 men, 10 companies = 1 regiment, about 4 regiments = 1 brigade, 2 to 5 brigades = 1 division, 2 or more divisions = 1 corps, 1 or more corps = 1 army.

Artillery: Cannon or other large caliber firearms; a branch of the army armed with cannon.

Barrel: The long metal tube on a gun through which a projectile is fired.

Battery: The basic unit of soldiers in an artillery regiment; similar to a company in an infantry regiment. Batteries included 6 cannon (with the horses, ammunition, and equipment needed to move and fire them), 155 men, a captain, 30 other officers, 2 buglers, 52 drivers, and 70 cannoneers. As the War dragged on, very few batteries fought at full strength. A battery can also be the position on a battlefield where cannon are located.

Bayonet: A metal blade, like a long knife or short sword, that could be attached to the end of a musket or rifle-musket and used as a spear or pike in hand-to-hand combat.

Blockade: The effort by the North to keep ships from entering or leaving Southern ports.

Border States: The states of Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri. Although these states did not officially join the Confederacy, many of their citizens supported the South.

Breech-loading: Rifle-muskets that could be loaded at the breech (in the middle between the barrel and the stock) instead of from the end (by shoving gunpowder and a ball down the barrel) were called breech-loading guns.

Brigade: A large group of soldiers usually led by a brigadier general. A brigade was made of four to six regiments. 1 company = 50 to 100 men, 10 companies = 1 regiment, about 4 regiments = 1 brigade, 2 to 5 brigades = 1 division, 2 or more divisions = 1 corps, 1 or more corps = 1 army.

Caliber: The distance around the inside of a gun barrel measured in thousands of an inch. Bullets are labeled by what caliber gun they fit.

¹ Most terms found at <http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/glossary/glossary.html>

Campaign: A series of military operations that form a distinct phase of the War (such as the Shenandoah Valley Campaign).

Canister: A projectile, shot from a cannon, filled with about 35 iron balls the size of marbles that scattered like the pellets of a shotgun.

Cap: Essential to firing a percussion rifle-musket, a cap is a tiny brass shell that holds fulminate of mercury. The cap is placed on the gun so that when a trigger is pulled, the hammer falls on the cap. The chemical in the cap ignites and flame shoots into the chamber that holds the gunpowder. This ignites the powder and the blast shoots the bullet out of the barrel.

Carbine: A breech-loading, single-shot, rifle-barreled gun primarily used by cavalry troops. A carbine's barrel is several inches shorter than a regular rifle-musket.

Casemate: An armored part of a warship.

Casualty: A soldier who was wounded, killed, or missing in action.

Cavalry: A branch of the military mounted on horseback. Cavalry units in the Civil War could move quickly from place to place or go on scouting expeditions on horseback, but usually fought on foot. Their main job was to gather information about enemy movements.

Commission: An official document issued by the government, giving the recipient the rank of officer in the armed forces. Confederate commissions included (in order of rank from high to low): Full General, Lieutenant General, Major General, Brigadier General, Full Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel, Major, Captain, First Lieutenant, Second Lieutenant. The Union army included all of the above with the exception of Full General; Lieutenant General was the highest commissioned officer in the Union Army.

Company: A group of 50 to 100 soldiers led by a captain. 10 companies = 1 regiment, about 4 regiments = 1 brigade, 2 to 5 brigades = 1 division, 2 or more divisions = 1 corps, 1 or more corps = 1 army.

Confederacy: Also called the South or the Confederate States of America, the Confederacy incorporated the states that seceded from the United States of America to form their own nation. Confederate states were: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. The President of the Confederacy was Jefferson F. Davis.

Confederate: Loyal to the Confederacy. Also Southern or Rebel.

Contrabands: Escaped slaves who fled to the Union lines for protection.

Corps: A very large group of soldiers led by (Union) a major general or (Confederate) a lieutenant general and designated by Roman numerals (such as XI Corps). Confederate corps were often called by the name of their commanding general (as in Jackson's Corps). 1 company = 50 to 100 men, 10 companies = 1 regiment, about 4 regiments = 1 brigade, 2 to 5 brigades = 1 division, 2 or more divisions = 1 corps, 1 or more corps = 1 army.

Democratic Party: The major political party in America most sympathetic to states rights and willing to tolerate the spread of slavery to the territories. Democrats opposed a strong Federal government. Most Southern men were Democrats before the War.

Earthwork: A field fortification (such as a trench or a mound) made of earth. Earthworks were used to protect troops during battles or sieges, to protect artillery batteries, and to slow an advancing enemy.

Emancipation: Freedom from slavery.

Enfilade: To fire along the length of an enemy's battle line.

Enlist: To formally enroll in the army.

Entrenchments: Long cuts (trenches) dug out of the earth with the dirt piled up into a mound in front; used for defense.

Federal: Loyal to the government of the United States. Also, Union, Yankee, or Northern.

Fieldworks: Temporary fortifications put up by an army in the field.

Fortification: Something that makes a defensive position stronger, like high mounds of earth to protect cannon or spiky breastworks to slow an enemy charge.

Garrison: A group of soldiers stationed at a military post.

Goober Pea: A term common in the South meaning peanut.

Indian Territory: The area that is now Oklahoma (except for the panhandle.)

Infantry: A branch of the military in which soldiers traveled and fought on foot.

Ironclad: A ship protected by iron armor.

Lunette: A fortification shaped roughly like a half-moon. It presented two or three sides to the enemy but the rear was open to friendly lines.

Mason-Dixon line: A boundary surveyed in the 1760s that ran between Pennsylvania to the North and Delaware, Maryland and (West) Virginia to the South. It became a symbolic division between free states and slave states.

Militia: Troops, like the National Guard, who are only called out to defend the land in an emergency.

Minie Bullet: The standard infantry bullet of the Civil War. Sometimes called a minie ball, (pronounced "min-ee") the bullet was designed for muzzle-loading rifle-muskets. It was invented by two Frenchmen, Henri-Gustave Delvigne and Claude-Étienne Minié (pronounced "min-ee-ay"). It was small enough to load quickly, and had a special feature that let it take advantage of a rifled-barrel. When the rifle-musket was fired, expanding gas from the gunpowder blast was caught in the hollow base of the bullet forcing it against the rifled grooves inside the barrel.

Musket: A smoothbore firearm fired from the shoulder. Thrust from exploding powder shoots the bullet forward like a chest pass in basketball.

Muster: To formally enroll in the army or to call roll.

Muzzle-loading: Muzzle-loading muskets or rifle muskets had to be loaded from the end by putting the gunpowder and the bullet or ball down the barrel.

Napoleonic Tactics: The tactics used by Napoleon Bonaparte that were studied by military men and cadets at West Point before the Civil War. His tactics were brilliant for the technology of warfare at the time he was fighting. However, by the Civil War, weapons had longer ranges and were more accurate than they had been in Napoleon's day.

Navy: A branch of the military using ships to conduct warfare. During the Civil War, "blue water" ships cruised the oceans and "brown water" boats floated up and down the rivers.

Nom-de-guerre: Literally, in French this means "war name". A nom-de-guerre is a nickname earned in battle, such as "Stonewall" Jackson or "Fighting Joe" Hooker.

North: Also called the Union or the United States the North was the part of the country that remained loyal to the Federal government during the Civil War. Northern states were: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin. West Virginia became a Northern state in 1863 and California and Oregon were also officially Northern but they had little direct involvement in the War.

Officer: A soldier commissioned by the army and accorded certain rank and authority.

Parole: A pledge by a prisoner of war or a defeated soldier not to bear arms. When prisoners were returned to their own side during the War (in exchange for men their side had captured) the parole was no longer in effect and they were allowed to pick up their weapons and fight. When the South lost the War and the Confederate armies given parole they promised never to bear weapons against the Union again.

Peculiar Institution: Another term for slavery in the South.

Percussion Arm: A musket or rifle-musket that requires a cap to fire. A tiny cap is placed on the gun so that when a trigger is pulled, the hammer strikes the cap. The chemical in the cap (fulminate of mercury) ignites and flame shoots into the chamber that holds the gunpowder. This ignites the powder and the blast shoots the bullet out of the barrel. (Percussion means striking--a drum is a percussion instrument and a gun that uses a hammer to strike a cap is a percussion arm.)

Picket: Soldiers posted on guard ahead of a main force. Pickets included about 40 or 50 men each. Several pickets would form a rough line in front of the main army's camp. In case of enemy attack, the pickets usually would have time to warn the rest of the force.

Popular Sovereignty: This doctrine came out during the debate over slavery in the territories. Popular sovereignty said that the people of each territory should be able to decide for themselves if slavery should be allowed in their territory when it became a state.

Private: The lowest rank in the army.

Rebel Yell: A high-pitched cry that Confederate soldiers would shout when attacking. First heard at First Manassas (First Bull Run). Union troops found the eerie noise unnerving.

Rebel: Loyal to the Confederate States. Also Southern or Confederate.

Recruits: New soldiers.

Redan: A fortification with two parapets or low walls whose faces unite to form a salient angle towards the enemy. That is, they form a point that juts out past the rest of the defensive line of works.

Redoubt: A small, roughly constructed fortification, usually temporary, often used to defend high points of land.

Regiment: The basic unit of the Civil War soldiers usually made up of 1,000 to 1,500 men. Regiments were usually designated by state and number (as in 20th Maine). 1 company = 50 to 100 men, 10 companies = 1 regiment, about 4 regiments = 1 brigade, 2 to 5 brigades = 1 division, 2 or more divisions = 1 corps, 1 or more corps = 1 army.

Republican Party: A political party created in the 1850s to prevent the spread of slavery to the territories. Eventually Republicans came to oppose the entire existence of slavery. Abraham Lincoln was the first Republican president. Very few Southerners were Republicans.

Revolver: A handheld firearm with a chamber to hold multiple bullets (usually 6). The chamber turns so that each bullet can be fired in succession without reloading.

Rifle-Musket: The common weapon of the Civil War infantryman, it was a firearm fired from the shoulder. It differed from a regular musket by the grooves (called rifling) cut into the inside of the barrel. When the exploding powder thrusts the bullet forward, the grooves in the barrel make it spin, just like a football spirals through the air. Rifle-muskets were more accurate and had a longer range than smoothbore weapons.

Rifle Pit: Similar to what soldiers call a "foxhole" today. Rifle pits were trenches with earth mounded up at the end as protection from enemy fire. A soldier lay in the trench and fired from a prone position.

Rifled: A gun barrel is rifled when it has grooves (called rifling) cut into the inside of the barrel for longer range and more accurate firing.

Rout: A crushing defeat where, often, the losers run from the field.

Salient: A part of a defensive line of works or a fortification that juts out from the main line towards the enemy. It is easiest to defend a line with no salients, because they stick out and are vulnerable to attack.

Secession: Withdrawal from the Federal government of the United States. Southern states, feeling persecuted by the North, seceded by voting to separate from the Union. Southerners felt this was perfectly legal but Unionists saw it as rebellion.

Secesh: Term used to describe people or states that had withdrawn formally from the Union.

Sectionalism: Promoting the interests of a section or region (such as the North or the South) instead of the entire country.

Sentry: A soldier standing guard.

Shed: The crude shelters Civil War prisoners of war built to protect themselves from the sun and rain.

Shell: A hollow projectile, shot from a cannon; a shell was filled with powder and lit by a fuse when it was fired. Shells exploded when their fuse burned down to the level of the powder. Depending on the length of the fuse, artillerymen could decide when they wanted the shell to burst.

Siege: Blocking the supply lines and escape routes of a city to force it to surrender. A siege usually meant one army trapped in a city, slowly running out of food and fresh water, with the opposing army camped outside.

Siegelines: Lines of works and fortifications that are built by both armies during a siege. The defenders build earthworks to strengthen their position inside a fort or city against assault while the besieging army constructs fortifications to protect siege guns and soldiers from sharpshooters inside the city.

Skirmish: A minor fight.

Slavery: A state of bondage in which African Americans (and some Native Americans) were owned by other people, usually white, and forced to labor on their behalf.

Smoothbore: A gun is smoothbore if the inside of the barrel is completely smooth. Smoothbore guns were used before rifled guns were developed. Although smoothbores were not as accurate and had a shorter range than rifled arms, there were still plenty of them in use during the Civil War.

South: Also called the Confederacy, the Confederate States of America, or (by Northerners) the Rebel states, the South incorporated the states that seceded from the United States of America to form their own nation. Southern states were: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Standard: A flag or banner carried into battle on a pole.

States Rights: This doctrine held the powers of the individual states as greater than the powers of the Federal government. States rights meant that the Federal government held its power only through the consent of the states and that any powers not specifically given to the Federal government remained in control of the states.

Stockade: A line of tall stout posts securely set either as a defense, to keep the enemy out, or as a pen to keep prisoners in.

Surrender: To admit defeat and give up in the face of overwhelming odds. Most defeated generals were able to negotiate surrender terms. These might include items like parole instead of prison for the soldiers or letting officers keep their sidearms.

Territory: Land within the mainland boundaries of the country that had not yet become a state by 1861. Nevada Territory, Utah Territory, and Colorado Territory had basically the same boundaries they have today as states; Washington Territory encompassed today's states of Washington and Idaho; Dakota Territory is now the states of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the northern part of Wyoming; Nebraska Territory today is the southern part of Wyoming and the state of Nebraska; New Mexico Territory included the states of Arizona and New Mexico; and the remaining unorganized land, also called the Indian Territory, filled the approximate boundaries of Oklahoma.

Theater: A theater of war is a region or area where fighting takes place.

Torpedoes: Today called mines, Civil War torpedoes were mostly used by the Confederates. Sometimes they were buried in the ground in the enemy's path to explode when stepped on. Mostly they were used as water defenses. They floated below the surface of the water and exploded when the hull of a ship brushed against them.

Torpedo Boats: Small submersible vessels with long wooden spars mounted on the bow for ramming enemy ships. Torpedoes were lashed to the tip of the spar to explode on impact.

Total War: A new way of conducting war appeared during the Civil War. Instead of focusing only on military targets, armies conducting total war destroyed homes and crops to demoralize and undermine the civilian base of the enemy's war effort. (Sherman in Georgia or Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley, for example.)

U.S. Christian Commission: An organization established in 1861 for the relief of Union soldiers; the Christian Commission provided food, Bibles, and free writing materials to the soldiers to encourage them in good moral behavior.

Union: Also called the North or the United States, the Union was the portion of the country that remained loyal to the Federal government during the Civil War. Union states were: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin. West Virginia became a Northern state in 1863 and California and Oregon were also officially Northern but they had little direct involvement in the War. The President of the United States during the Civil War was Abraham Lincoln.

Volunteer: Someone who does something because they want to, not because they need to. Most Civil War soldiers, especially in the beginning of the War, were volunteers. Men joined the armies on both sides because they wanted to fight for their cause.

West Point: The United States Military Academy at West Point, New York was the military school for more than 1,000 officers in both the Union and Confederate armies--including Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant.

Whig Party: A political party generally against slavery and its expansion into the territories. The Whig party had basically been swallowed up by the Democrat and Republican parties by the time of the Civil War.

Works: Fortified structures designed to strengthen a position in battle. This includes earthworks, fieldworks, entrenchments, siege lines, etc.

Yankee: A Northerner; someone loyal to the Federal government of the United States. Also, Union, Federal, or Northern.

Zouave: A zouave regiment was characterized by its bright, colorful uniform which usually included baggy trousers, a vest, and a fez in different combinations of red, white, and blue. American zouave units were found in both Union and Confederate armies. They were modeled after French African troops who were known for their bravery and marksmanship.



The New War Map of Maryland



The New War Map of Maryland, Part of Virginia & Pennsylvania (detail)

Lesson 5 Lieutenant Longfellow's Wartime Experience

LOCATION MARKERS

<p>From Private to Officer: March 12, 1863 <i>Charley was in Washington.</i></p>	<p>Bill of Health: August 17, 1863 <i>Charley was in Washington.</i></p>
<p>Living Conditions: April 9, 1863 <i>Charley and his regiment were at Potomic [sic] Creek, VA.</i></p>	<p>Responsibilities and Duties: August 22, 1863 <i>Charley and his regiment were in Warrenton, VA.</i></p>
<p>Bill of Health: June 13, 1863 <i>Charley and Henry were in Washington.</i></p>	<p>Responsibilities and Duties: September 20, 1863 <i>Charley and his regiment were in Culpepper, VA.</i></p>
<p>Bill of Health: July 1, 1863 <i>Charley and Henry were in Nahant, MA.</i></p>	<p>Bill of Health: October 17, 1863 <i>Charley and his regiment were near Bull Run in VA.</i></p>
<p>Bill of Health: July 15, 1863 <i>Charley's regiment was in Harpers Ferry, VA.</i></p>	<p>Bill of Health: December 9, 1863 <i>Charley and Henry were in New York on their way to Cambridge, MA.</i></p>

Research Topic: Responsibilities and Duties

Study the following letters from Charley to Henry, then complete the chart to find out Charley's major responsibilities & duties as a soldier.

When was the letter written?	Who wrote the letter?	To whom was the letter written?	From where was the letter written?	Based on the information in the letter, what were Charley's primary duties and responsibilities?
March 21, 1863				
March 28, 1863				
May 7, 1863				
August 22, 1863				
October 10, 1863				
October 23, 1863				

What were Charley's primary duties and responsibilities while a soldier in the Civil War?

Do you think Charley likes what he was doing? Why or why not?

Would you like to have a soldiering experience like the one Charley describes? Explain your answer.

Research Topic:
Responsibilities and Duties

Note: Documents are transcribed directly from the originals. Spelling errors are those of the author.

LETTERS

March 21, 1863

White Oak Church, VA

March 21st, '63

Dear Papa:

I have just got in from guard duty and hasten to answer your letter which I received yesterday. You don't know how glad I am to hear that you won't make me come back. I would not back out now for anything in the world...

With a great deal of love to you all, I remain,

Yours affecy,

Charley

P.S. Please send me my india rubber coat, my largest pair of lace up brogans, a couple of cents worth of common matches and anything in the preserve line you think of...

March 28, 1863

White Oak Church, Va.

March 28th, '63

Dear Papa,

...Now I will give you my duties, we are woke up in the morning a little before six by the beastly bugle, and all make a rush to the park where the roll is called, but which is nothing but a lot of horses tied to a clothes line out in the mud, after cleaning off and feeding the horses we try to get a little fire going in our tents, which if we are the lucky owners of some wood is easy enough, but as every stick of wood we burn has to be brought on our backs half a mile so we don't always get it...after breakfast we ride the horses off to water bare backed which is first rate fun, if it is not raining which it does quite often here; at noon we clean up and feed the horses again and also in the evening. Taps are sounded at eight; when we all turn in...

With love to all enquiring friends,

Yours very affec'y,

Charley

May 7, 1863

Patomac Creek Va.

May 7th 1863

Dear Papa

You see that we are back at our old camp after a campaign of twenty four days. I will write more fully ~~this afternoon~~ in a day or two as I have got to go on picket in a few minutes I think.

August 22, 1863

In camp near Warrenton

Aug 22

Dear Papa

I have arrived at last much to my delight as when I last wrote to you I did not see how I should do it, very clearly... the officer in charge of the squad put me in charge of the reare guard (we were going to escort a train of some twenty five suttlers wagons to the front). We started on ~~Friday~~ Wednesday at nine and encamped near Senterville that night, the Lieut. commanding carried things on in the loosest way not putting any guard on the waggons so that two or three guerrillas with which the country was said to be infested could have run off all the horses and captured lots of goods. Next we reached Catlets Station on the Orange & Alexandria R.R. It was pretty good fun being head of the rear guard as whenever a waggon would break down or get stuck the old Jews of suttlers would treat to grub rather than be left behind as they were dreadfully frightened at the idea of being taken by the rebs... We are in a very good sort of camp a mile and a half from Warrenton on the Warterloo road...

I remain

Your loving son

Charley

October 10, 1863

Hartwood Church Oct 10th

Dear Gov.

...We have been saddled and ready to move from six this morning where we are going nobody knows we are only waiting for a party of the 1st Penn Cav. to return from a reconnoissance they are making. my guess is that we are going to Culpepper or in that direction perhaps to have another brush with the rebs...

...Capt. Crowninshield has returned from Washington as swelly as you please. He brought my. Guess what? VALISE. And blankets, and now I am all right box No. 3 the one with the grub arrived this morning all safe but we may start at 3 minutes notice I have not yet opened it. Though the mess is licking its chops in anticipation of a feast. I am ever so much obliged to you for it. It is such fun to get one and dive into it to see what's there.

The regiment (the men) is to have ~~their~~ its choise whether it will stay its remaining time out (about ten months) or take 30 days furlough then stay six weeks in camp recruiting and enlist again for two years. I am afraid all the men will go in for their 30 days and two years more. I had rather stay our time out. and then reinlist if necessary so you may see me sooner than you expected when I left. A winter camp in Mass. bah.

Yours very Affectionately

Charley

P.S. Oct 16. We have been through all the fights of the retreat we have been covering the rear of the army and have been worked very hard we officers have been living on two hard bread a

day for the last for luckily none of our officers have been hurt we have been under a lively fire half a day or times
your affectionate
Charley

October 23, 1863

Sulpher Springs Va

Oct 23rd

Dear Gov

I don't know how I can give you a better idea of what I have been about than by copying off my journal....

Saturday 17th Wrote to you, heard heavy firing all day on our right heard we were whipping the rebs, Sunday 18th I was put in charge of our pickets three of Gen Meads scouts came over from the south side of the river, in the evening drew in my pickets, went through Centerville and camped at Cab run I went on picket with 40 men, beastly cold.

Tuesday 20th Marched ~~to~~ over the Bull Run battle field camped near the famous "stone bridge" where the great jam was had...

Wednesday 21st Marched through Thouroughfare gap to our old camp at Warrenton, acted as guard to a waggon train, we found our old camp full of rebel clothes canteens &c. which they had left.

Thursday 22nd advanced to Sulpher Springs saw no rebs til we got there saw some on the other side Friday 23rd we are now picketting the ford and exchanged papers with a chap who rode down to the river today, he said they were very much disgusted with their want of success in their attempt to cut off ~~our~~ the rear guard of our army and wagon train...

hoping you are all well I remain with much love to all

C.A.L.

Research Topic: Living Conditions

Cavalry activity ranged from doing mundane things to fighting. Study the following sources, then complete the chart to comment on Charley's living conditions. Make sure to include any information on friends and fellow soldiers, food and meals, weather, sleeping conditions, clothing, camp, and pay.

When was the letter written?	Who wrote the letter?	To whom was the letter written?	From where was the letter written?	Based on the information in the document, comment on the living conditions of Charley as a Civil War soldier.
April 9, 1863				
April 17, 1863				
August 31, 1863				
September 20, 1863				
October 2, 1863	Henry Longfellow	Charley Longfellow		
October 17, 1863				
November 25, 1863				
Les Deux Amis	X	X	X	

What does Charley like and dislike about camp life?

~ OVER ~

How does he deal with the discomforts?

Based on Charley's letters, how would you characterize camp life?

Research Topic:
Living Conditions

Note: Documents are transcribed directly from the originals. Spelling errors are those of the author.

LETTERS

April 9, 1863

Camp 1st Mass. Cav. Patomic [sic] Creek

April 9th [1863]

Dear Papa,

The mail arrives here at about six oclock just as we are at dinner and this evening after dining off fish balls and beef steak beans fried potatoes and lots of other good things which we always have...

April 17, 1863

In camp within long range of the Rebs.

April 17th [1863]

Dear Papa,

...On Monday morning we left our camp at Patomic [sic] Station for good an I think very likely we are going to begin the campaign on Monday. We marched about 25 miles at noon we stopped at Hartwell Church where I was appointed Adjutant of our regiment during this expedition...It is a mighty pleasant position, to be acting as Adjutant...but that night a "change came over the spirit of our dream" I was waked up at about midnight by the rain, as I had no shelter tent...I had not been up long before an order came to saddle up and we started at daylight and marched to out present place...it rained for 24 hours without stopping which of course raised the Rapahannoc so that it was unfordable, and it was 11 feet deep at the ford today this delay of ours has given the Rebs time to collect their forces and they are now throwing up earth works to command the ford...direct your letters to Lieut. C.A. Longfellow 1st Mass Cav.y Gen. Averills Div Army of the Potomac...

August 31, 1863

No. 2

Orleans Aug 31st [1863]

Dear Governor

I received your letter no 2 dated the 27th and the parsell you sent last night and much obliged I am for the things although I wish they had been new.

You must not feel the least anxious about me during this “heated term” as the papers call it but which is on the contrary the most delightful weather plenty cool enough. We are now at Orleans a little town about 14 miles from Warrenton we are in a very pleasant camp from which we send out scouting parties and pickets every day as there are a great many Guerillas about we caught one the other day.

God bless you all

Your affectionate son

Charley

P.S. I wrote to Alice and Edie day before yesterday

September 20, 1863

In camp near Culpepper

Sept. 20th [1863]

Dear Gov.

I have not time to write a long letter but just enough to let you know I am very well only rather cold please send me by mail two very thick under shirts a pair of thick draws and a silk handkerchief you will have to get new ones as I have none. We have had no fight since my last. send me also a pair of beever gloves...

yours affectionately

Charley

October 2, 1863

Cambridge Oct 2 1863

My Dear Charlie,

I received this morning yours from Catlett's Station, and went to town immediately, and ordered a box at the Grocer's to be sent you this afternoon by Express, and the receipt by mail. The box contains

3 canisters *a-la-mode* beef

1 d[itt]o Roast beef

2 jars Spanish Olives.

2 d[itt]o pickles

1 Bologna Sausage

1 Dutch cheese

1 parcel Lamb's tongue

1 bottle of Contraband [alcohol] to be used in small quantities, and seldom; only in case of chills or sickness...

October 17, 1863

On picket at Bull Run

near Fairfax Va. Oct 17th 1863

Dear Gov

You must not expect much of a letter from one as I have not had much of any sleep or grub for the last six days and am pretty well played out not as much as some of us though.

...we marched about the country nearly all night crossing Bull Run four times and making fools of ourselves generally. Col Taylor don't seem to know what he is about in the least I think he is an old muggins without any disrespect to him as my superior, next day we came to this camp where we are picketting Bull Run, the regiment is awfully used up from the last six days hard work, our horses were only fed with grain twice all the time the rest of the time living on leaves and water there are hardly ten who ~~can~~ could go 8 miles this morning, the officers have been as hard up most of us getting about two hard tack a day I had the luck to pick up a haversack with some pork in it there is fighting going on today somewhere (Union mills I think) as we keep hearing the guns This thing isn't over yet.

Please send my your last book of poems as I want to read it very much. It has been mighty exciting the last few days I can tell you and I would not have missed the experience for anything.

I hope you are all well. I never was better although like the horses ~~inclined to look~~ gaunt. I have sent a check for you to cash as for one of our officers a great friend of mine as it is not safe to send money. I wish you would do it as it is very important to him.

With much love to all

Your affectionate Son

Charley

November 25, 1863

Nr. Eleysford Va.

Nov. 25th

Dear governor

It is a long time since I wrote to you, not because there was nothing to tell, as I have seen and done a great deal, but because I have not had a chance This letter however is on business entirely.

In one of your letters you asked me when the pay master was coming, it dont make nay difference to me when he comes a I cant draw pay. Now I will tell you why. When I received my commission there was supposed to be a vacancy in the Hilton Head battallion my name was therefore put on the pay rolls as “assigned to H.H.” but it seems that in the mean time Maj. Stephens com. the battallion at H.H. had, without consulting Col. Sargent filled the place which belonged to me thus leaving me out in the cold and as an officer cant draw pay without there is a place for him on the rolls I cant get any, and what is more shant get any until my name is put against some vacancy (Pat. Jackson is in exactly the same scrape) Now there was a chance, and it was Gov. Andrews duty to right us when the new battallion for this reg was formed by putting our names on its rolls, though we should served here just the same only drawing pay as belonging to it Now the Gov. has not done this and by filling up the new battallion with new officers has done Jackson Tomlard, and myself a grose injustice, and until our names are put on the rolls of this reg. he will be doing so, and even then all pay which is due us for previous service will go to the dogs...

... I am serving for nothing I would willingly do this if I had an indipendent fortune, but I cant bear the idea of drawing on you all the time when my expences are so large. I am now over thirty dollars in debt and getting deaper every day. This state of things will continue until my name is put on the pay rolls of this reg.

You of course know that Gov. Andrew has ~~put two~~ jumped two men over the heads of nine of us. this sort of treatment takes all pride out of officers and men and an officer without pride in what he is doing isnt worth “shucks”

With much love to all

Yours in anger

Charley



Les Deux Amis

Research Topic: From Private to Officer

Charley enlisted as a soldier in March 1863. It was uncommon for enlisted soldiers to move so quickly into the upper ranks. Charley, however, was offered a commission within two weeks of enlisting which promoted him from the entry level position of private, to the elevated rank of Second Lieutenant. Study the following documents to learn about his movement through the ranks.

When was the letter written?	Who wrote the letter?	To whom was the letter written?	From where was the letter written?	What does this document tell you about Charley's entry into the army?
March 12, 1863				
March 17, 1863				
March 21, 1863				
March 23, 1863				
March 24, 1863				
April 5, 1863				
Journal entry May 3 [1863]	Henry Longfellow	X	X	

~ OVER ~

What accounts for Charley's hasty commission?

In your opinion, are the grounds for Charley's commission justifiable?

Research Topic:
From Private to Officer

Note: Documents are transcribed directly from the originals. Spelling errors are those of the author.

LETTERS

March 12, 1863

Camp Batty "A" Mass. Arty.

Brooks Div. 6 Army Corps,
March 12th, 1863

To H. W. Longfellow, Esq.

Sir:

Yesterday in coming from Philadelphia to this camp, I was met by your son, who desired to enlist in my Battery. I knew him by sight; and being as you may well suppose somewhat surprised, I began to question him. I ascertained that he was both clandestinely absent from his home, and very determined to enlist as a private soldier. Indeed I learned that he had actually applied to be received in the Regular Infantry, but had been rejected on account of the loss of a thumb. I did not consider him the proper person to enlist, as he was evidently intending. Then for the purpose of detaining him and in order to prevent his enlisting elsewhere, I promised him to receive him as a recruit. I took him into my Hotel, and brought down here this P.M. He has made me promise to enlist him to-morrow, under pain if I don't that he will go elsewhere, and where he is not known, and enlist. My object in writing you, Sir, is to inform you that I shall endeavor to make him suppose that he is enlisted lawfully, and so to keep him here; until I shall be advised by you in the matter. He is very shrewd, so much so, that I was utterly unable to advise you last night, in Washington, of his whereabouts, so constantly did he look after me. I beg leave to add, Sir, that I have taken these steps both on account of the respect which I entertain for his family, and for his own sake.

I am, Sir,

With much respect,

W. H. McCartney

Capt. Comdg.

I have to beg as a favor that he may not know that you receive this information from me.

McCartney

March 17, 1863

Private. Camb. March 17. 1863

My Dear Sumner,

You will be surprised and *not* surprised, to hear that Charley has joined the Army; and is now in Washington! As I would not give my consent, he went without it, as Howe did in the days of the Greek Revolution.

He is at “camp. Battery A. Mass Artillery. Brooks Div. 6 Army Corps;” and as he has so very decided a taste for this kind of life, I think it would be unwise to recall him by any coercive means.

He has applied to Capt. W.H. McCartney for enlistment; who will take good care of him till he hears from me.

Now what is the best thing to be done? If you could see Capt. McCartney, either by going to Camp or by asking him to call on you, when in town, that would seem to be the first step. If he stays, I want him to stay as an officer, if possible.

Every truly,
H.W.L.

March 21, 1863

Private. Camb. March 21 1863.

My Dear Fields,

I started this morning to come in to town to see you on some particular business; but on the way I met a military funeral and it has quite upset me. So I write instead.

What I want you to do for me is to see Gov. Andrew, to-day if you can, and ascertain if it is possible to get a commission of any kind for Charley. He has enlisted as a private in Battery A. Mass Artillery, under Capt. McCartney, and is now with the army on the Rappahannock.

If he could get a Lieutenancy in that corps, I should be gratified.

Hoping to see you soon,
Ever Yours
H.W.L.

March 23, 1863

Washington, 23 March, '63

My dear Longfellow,

Capt. McCartney has just called upon me. I liked him much. He is young but intelligent, thoughtful, and with a well-bred air. A gentleman who knew him two years ago says that he has improved wonderfully in every respect, in appearance and in resources, that he is now the best Capt. of a Battery in the Army.

He told me all about Charley, how the boy came to him and his present condition. It seems that Charley supposes himself mustered in, but he is not, so that he can still be allowed to leave at any moment. But this state of things cannot last over the 1st of April. Meanwhile he is in a tent with three others among the best men in the Battery; that the first night he was put on guard duty, when it stormed and snowed that the Capt. Asked him in the morning if he had not had enough, but he said “no”, that he was already popular with the men, who respected him; that the men did not trifle with him as with raw recruits generally. But the Capt. said that most of his men were very rough and not proper companions for him. He thought he ought to have a commission, and, if places were not all taken he should like him as an officer under him.

While Capt. McCartney was with me Major Poor came in. They had served together. The latter heard the Capt's advice with regard to the commission and he said at once, that he differed from him; that it would be better for the young man to keep on at least for a while in the career which he had begun and earn his commission, so to feel that he does not owe it to favor. A gentleman from Milwaukee, Mr. Dawes, was present, and hearing what passed, said that his son had left him in the same way, and that he had deliberately allowed him to follow his bent, and he as sure this was the best course.

The Capt. will call upon me again this evening, so that if I hear from you, I shall be able to give him your instructions. I must repeat again, that I was truly pleased with the Capt.

Ever and ever yours,

Charles Sumner

March 24, 1863

White Oak Church, Va.

Mar. 24, '63

Dear Papa:

The day before yesterday I had a call from Lieut. Col. Curtis and he said he had come to offer me a commission in his cavalry;...I was very glad to get this chance in the cavalry...I suspect that my dear little "aunt" is at the bottom of this commission, it is just like her.

With much love to you all, I remain,

Your very affec'y

Charley

P.S. Send me three silk pocket handkerchiefs

April 5, 1863

Camb. April 5. 1863

My dear Sumner

...Charley has already gone to the Cavalry camp. Whether he has done wisely or not, I can not pretend to say. The nomination was offered him without my solicitation; and he seems to have accepted it without hesitation. I fear he would have had to wait long to promotion in the Artillery, as the commissions are few and the aspirants many...

Ever thine,

H.W.L.

JOURNAL OF HENRY LONGFELLOW

May 3, 1863

On recommendation of Col. Sergeant Charley has received a commission as Second Lieut of Cavalry.

In town all this morning getting his outfit.

Research Topic: Bill of Health

Life as a soldier could be difficult. Study the following letters, then complete the chart to find out about Charley's health during wartime and his father's varied responses.

Documents	What happens to Charley?	How does Henry respond?
HWL to Erny – June 13, 1863 HWL to Erny – June 17, 1863 HWL to Erny – June 19, 1863 HWL to G.W. Greene – July 1, 1863		
HWL to S.P. Chase – August 13, 1863 CAL to HWL – August 17, 1863 HWL to CAL – September 23, 1863		
Photograph of Charley's uniform HWL Journal December 1-7, 1863 HWL to Alice – December 9, 1863		

~ OVER ~

What happens to Charley in June, August, and December 1863?

In each case, what is Henry's response?

If you were in Charley's shoes, would you want a parent to respond like Henry? Explain your response.

Research Topic:
Bill of Health

Note: Documents are transcribed directly from the originals. Spelling errors are those of the author.

LETTERS

Henry Longfellow to Erny, Edith and Anne Longfellow

Washington. Saturday June 13 1863

My Dear Erny,

I arrived here at ten o'clock this morning; without trouble or fatigue; and am very glad I came without stopping.

Charley is not at any hospital, but with a friend of Uncle Sam's, Mr. Richardson, one of the leading men of the Sanitary Commission, in a nice large, airy room, with window looking into a garden.

I am sorry to say that Charley has the Camp-fever; but the doctor says there are no alarming symptoms. He has been too careless, and has been strolling about when he should have been in bed. But that was before he came to Mr. Richardson. Now we shall keep him quiet for a few day, and then I hope to bring him home with me. All he needs is care and good nursing. If I had only come sooner!...

Henry Longfellow to Erny Longfellow

Washington. June 17. 1863

My Dear Erny,

...Charley is always improving under the influence of beef-tea, arrow-root, and such a quantity of mixtures, powders and cooling draughts as would astonish your homeopathic mind. It staggers belief. I shut my eyes, and proceed according to directions of Dr. Clymer, in whose hands I found Charley, and who has great reputation in such cases...

Yours affectionately,

H.W.L.

Henry Longfellow to Erny Longfellow

Washington. June 19, 1863

My Dear Erny,

The Doctor holds us fast, and will not let us go. He says we must not think of moving for a week at least! That will bring us far on towards July; and you must all be off for Nahant without any regard for us.

Our plan now is to come home by water to avoid fatigue; and I am going up to Georgetown today if I can find time, to look at the steamers, that run between that place and New York...The air is better than cinders; and Charley has a fancy for this mode of returning. Poor boy; he is sadly pulled down...And the fever will still show itself a little now and then, when we hope it is gone...

HWL

Henry Longfellow to George Washington Greene

Nahant, Mass July 1. 1863

My Dear Greene,

I got back to this sea-side place yesterday, bringing the Lieutenant with me. I am sorry to say he had last night a return of fever, which I do not like at all. To-day he is in bed again; but I hope it will pass off without serious result. A typhoid-malaria fever is very insidious, and long in the recovery...

Henry Longfellow to Salmon Portland Chase

Nahant. Aug 13 1863

Hon S. P. Chase

Dear Sir,

I take the liberty of giving this introduction to my son, who is on his way to join his Regiment.

Should he meet with any impediments in passing through Washington with his horses, may I rely upon a good work from you to facilitate matters?

I remain, Dear Sir

Yours very truly,

Henry W. Longfellow

Charley Longfellow to Henry Longfellow

Washington

August 17th

Dear Governor,

I am here at last with a pass in my pocket...Dr. Clymer got it for me...

Henry Longfellow to Charley Longfellow

Camb. Sept 23 1863

My Dear Charley,

Your letter of the 16th relieved our minds; and we are very thankful that you are all safe, and have escaped thus far, without harm, from so many dangers, and so much exposure...

You do not tell me how your health and strength hold out; nor whether you have coats and blankets enough. You must guard against chills in the cold nights.

TELEGRAM

Henry Longfellow to Alice Mary Longfellow

New York Dec 9th

Shall be at home at ten. Have Dr. Wyman there.

December 1, 1863

At dinner received a telegram from Washington, stating that Charley had been severely wounded in the face.

Left for Washington with Ernest at 5 o'clock....

December 2, 1863

Delayed so as to miss the early train for Philadelphia. Took the second train and reached Washington at ten at night. Stayed at Willard's

December 3, 1863

Engaged rooms at the Ebbitt House. There went in pursuit of Charley. Find he has not been sent up yet... Find Col. Deveraux who telegraphs to Brandy Station for news. Wait all the afternoon for answers, but get none...At midnight, knock at chamber door. Telegram from Col. Deveraux. Wounded will be sent up tomorrow evening.

December 4, 1863

...At six drive down to railway station. Wait till ten, last train. No wounded arrive. Will not be up till tomorrow noon.

December 6, 1863

Drive to station at noon...The train came in from Alexandria, only a baggage car. But in it were sixteen wounded officers, and among them Charley and Capt. Bowditch. Take them to the Ebbett Home, and soon have them snug in bed. Bowditch wounded through the arm, Charley through the shoulders, an [Enfieldball] entering under left shoulder blade and passing directly through the back, taking off one of the spinal processes, and passing out under the right shoulder blade. A wonderful escape. Both doing well. Watch with them all night. They slept well.

December 7, 1863

A good day. But in the afternoon the Army surgeon Dr. Hoskins, who came down with the wounded alarmed me by saying that "his duty to himself and to me" required him to say that the wound was a very serious one, and paralysis might ensue. In the evening three surgeons came in; one of them Medical Director...Gives favorable report, but says the wound will be long in healing...



Charley Longfellow's Military Jacket (front)



Charley Longfellow's Military Jacket (back)



Charley Longfellow's Military Jacket (back detail)

Research Topic: Battles and Skirmishes

It was common for soldiers to participate in several battles during the war. Charley was no exception. Study the following documents (including the map), then complete the chart to find out what battles Charley and his regiment fought in.

Date	Who wrote the letter?	To whom was the letter written?	From where was the letter written?	Based on the information in the letter, comment on the following.		
				Approximate location of battle or skirmish	Words used to describe the battle or skirmish	Injuries, losses, challenges
May 10, 1863						
July 22, 1863						
September 16, 1863						
October 29, 1863						

~ OVER ~

How does Charley feel about his role as a soldier in battle?

How would you feel to be engaged in battles and skirmishes like those described by Charley and George Osborn? Explain your response.

Research Topic: Battles and Skirmishes

Note: Documents are transcribed directly from the originals. Spelling errors are those of the author.

LETTERS

May 10, 1863

Patomic Creek Va.

May 10th

Dear Papa,

...The first thing we knew of the fight was on the afternoon of the day we marched from Rappadan Station to Elleys ford. About 4 oclock we began to hear guns in the distance going boom, boom, boom, boom, one after the other until we camped in an open field on the right of our line of battle when it grew dark they stopped and we laid down for two hours sleep before we started again we had only been asleep a few minutes when we were woke up by three or four volleys of musketry fired from the woods on the southern side of the river right into the middle of Col Mc.Intoshes ~~regiment~~ regiment which lay on our right it was very bad shooting as only two or three men were hurt but all his horses were stampeeded and a good many lost. At any rate we had to hop up. All our carbineers were sent into a ... to give the rebs a warm reception if they tried to cross the river and charge on us...It turned out that the fellows who fired on our men were the 10th N.C. regiment who had lost their way but seeing this chance let fly a volley at us and then cleared out...The next day we marched across Elley's ford and through the right wing of our army all along the road which was through thick woods (the whole fight was in the thickest sort of woods) we passed the poor chaps being carried to the rear on stretchers and in ambulances, and others sleeping after the fight of the morning... Next day we crossed the Rappahannock at United States Ford and then went down the river to protect wagon trains, such is the ignoble work to which cavalry is put in this country, and now here we are again...

July 22, 1863

1st Mass. Cavalry

in camp near Hillsborough Va

July 22 1863

Dear Longfellow,

Your note was most welcome. It was rec'd at Harper's Ferry three days ago. I am glad you are doing so well, but am sorry you are not sufficiently well to rejoin us at once.

We have stirred about considerably since your departure...

...On Monday we retired to Aldie, remained here a few days, then on Saturday the 27th ult. crossed the river at Edwards Ferry, passing through Lusburg. We marched all night + the next forenoon reaching Frederick City at 11 o'clock a.m. We were allowed to rest only 3 hours when we moved on

that night to Ridyeveich on the Baltimore pike. From this point we went through successively the towns of Westminster (here the rebels left only as we entered the town) Hampstead, Manchester, Westminster again + finally Gettysburg, arriving right in the midst of the heaviest fighting of the 2nd day Thursday July 2. But the next day the 3rd put in the shade all the cannonading of the 2nd. It was terrible, 64 discharges in a minute were counted by C. Parsons + this was kept up of 4 or 5 hours uninterrupted. The cavalry, you know, were on the extreme right flank, + in the p.m. of the 3rd had a smart fight, which we saw ¼ of a mile off but our Reg't was not engaged. The latter part of the p.m. the Reg't was sent back on the pike leading to Westminster about 4 miles to meet a force of Rebels (Stuarts men) said to be in the woods there, but none were encountered. On our return, we met large numbers of prisoners going to the rear + from all we could gather the battle had gone decidedly for us. Every body insisted however that Gen. Longstreet had been killed. We left Gettysburg 3 days after the battle + proceeded directly to Frederick City where we again rejoined the brigade...

...Early on the morning of Tuesday the 15th inst. our reg't went back to Boonsboro + here joined the 1st brigade + moved on almost without stopping to Harpers Ferry at which point it crossed the river + encamped near Bolivar a mile + a half from the bridge. The next day the 1st + 3rd brigades of our Division moved on to Sheperdstown, ten miles distant, without any other support + the Rebel army within a few miles of us. No demonstration was made (our Regts keeping saddled up) until Thursday p.m. about 3 o'clock when the enemy came down + a very brisk fight took place lasting until 8 o'clock in the evening. The 3rd brigade + the 3rd Penn of our brigade were chiefly engaged. about sixty wounded + we took a few prisoners, but the enemy's force was large + we had no support + although we maintained our ground, a retreat was ordered + we had to move taking all our wounded except twelve back to Harpers Ferry over the most horrible road I have yet experienced, reaching the latter place about an hour after daylight 5 ½ o'clock a.m. Friday. I had charge of the ambulance train + over that detestable road, it was not an agreeable undertaking to move them, one broke down + the caisson of the artillery wagon fell down a ravine + I think was abandoned. It seems that the Rebels retreated also during the night...

...I hope you will join us soon, I assure you I missed you + shall be glad to see you back. Let me know if you hear anything from Gleason...

Yos. very truly Geo S. Osborne[----] [----]

Crowninshield is in command. All the now with us are tip tops. But the horses are dreadfully used up, my own is quite lame + exceedingly thin, I wish I could obtain another, though I hate to give this one up. I like him.

September 16, 1863

Cedar Mt. Va

Sept 16th

Dear Governor.

At last I have got a chance to write to let you know that I am all right as you must be anxious knowing that we have been fighting the last two days...

Sunday morning we started at day break about noon the advance guard met the rebs whom they drove before them through Culpepper a little beyond which they made a stand here our regiment was ordered up to support a battery the shot and shell were flying over our heads by this time pretty lively and the first thing I knew I saw a 12lb shot coming bounding along it made two jumps in front of us and then went rip! Close by my leg and hit Sergeant Reed, my quartermaster sergeant below the knee, taking his leg off, he was the next man to me our squadron then drew up behind the battery with the rebel shot just clearing our heads our men did not behave very well ducking like every thing at first when the shells burst near them... I had charge of my company as skirmishers we met the rebs at Cedar Mt. But they retired to the Rapidan. there we got into it as thick as I ever want to ~~again~~ they had seven pieces of artillery playing into us (the 1st Mass 1st R.I. and 6th Ohio) we had to manoeuvre under this fire it was not over jolly. Our squadron dashed across a field where we were peppered finely but we got behind a hill where they could not hit us. our men were sent out to skirmish ~~the~~ one regiment of rebs charged them but were driven back by our men. they try to frighten our boys by yelling and howling but it is no go. after sunset we were deployed as skirmishers behind a fence where we stayed all night under arms. next morning we were relieved as we were about used up not having had anything to eat for 24 hours except tobacco and being in the saddle nearly the whole time our horses are dreadfully used up too. I had several narrow escapes being covered with dirt from shells several times one brushing so close to my face at to make ~~the~~ me feel the blast of hot air but thank God none of our officers are hurt I don't know yet how many men are killed they may talk about the gaiety of a soldiers life but it strikes me as pretty earnest work when shells are ripping and tearing your men to pieces. today we are resting while the rest of the Brigade are trying their hand at it. this is what they call feeling the enemy and making him show his strength. I shall write again and more fully as soon as I get a chance.

don't be anxious.

God bless you all at home

Yours affectionately

Charley

October 29, 1863

Camb. Oct 29. 1863

My Dear Charley,

I have had the pleasure of receiving two, letters, good long letters-from you this week; one from Bull Run, 17th, and one from Sulphur Springs 23rd, and I am very thankful you have got through such heavy work unharmed. I hope you will now have a little rest...